THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The pollution arising from coal mine fires in Jharia coalfield in Bihar is due to both dust particles as well as gaseous emissions. An advance Environmental Planning Group which was set up by the government in 1987 to examine the overall environmental aspects of Jharia coalfield had observed that while the pollution level arising from dust particles is high, the air pollution caused by gaseous emissions like oxides of sulphur and nitogen is generally within the permissible limits. The Group had also observed that there was no significant water pollution from mine fires because very small quantity of mine water from fire areas is pumped into the natural drainage system.

(b) Government have taken steps to contain, combat and control mine fires in the Jharia Coalfield through implementation of various schemes formulated for this purpose. Government are also considering to induct advanced tecchnologies for this purpose in collaboration with other countries.

Supply of coal to power plants in Gujarat

3834. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some power stations in Gujarat were shut down for want of coal;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to augment the supply of coal for the power stations in Gujarat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) certain units at Gandhinagar, Ukai, Wanakbori and Sikka Thermal Power Stations in Gujarat had to be shut down at times for want of coal.

(c) Coal supplies to all power stations including power stations in Gujarat, are regularly monitored, and corrective actions are taken whenever necessary to ensure regular supply of coal.

Monitoring Committee for implementation of the 15 Point Programme

3835. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is any Committee for monitoring implementation of the 15 Point Programme for the welfare of the Minorities; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such Committee and the achievements thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Compensation for loss to the Neyveli Lignite Corporation

3836. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1215 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 1992 and state:

(a) the quantum of loss suffered by Neyveli Lignite Corporation in terms of rupees; and

(b) whether Government contemplate to compensate the loss, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The estimated shortfall in income and extra expenditure on account of the flooding is about Rs. 47.91 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

Policy for Mining of lignite in private sector

3837. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to relax policy to enable the mining of the lignite in private sector for power generation ; and

(b) if so, by when this relaxation is likely to be announced with respect to Jayamkondom lignite area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A proposal for allowing private sector participation in mining of coal/lignite for